

RESEARCH RESPONSE

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAYS SINCE 1951 AND SPECIAL SESSION DAYS SINCE 1971

Tables 1 and 2 on the following pages show the number of regular session days in each General Assembly from the 67th through the 93rd General Assemblies (1951-2003), and the number of special session days in each General Assembly from the 77th through the 93rd (1971-2003). Each table also shows numbers of perfunctory days (in both regular and special sessions) in parentheses. The Senate Rules did not provide for perfunctory days until 1993

Table 2 addresses special sessions, showing the subject of each session and whether it was called by the Governor or the legislative leaders. Numbers of special session days that were neither perfunctory, nor concurrent with regular session days, are indicated by bold numerals in parentheses. For example, "19(3)(**1**)" means that a special session ran a total of 19 session days; three were perfunctory; and one was neither perfunctory nor concurrent with a regular session.

Please note this document supersedes the May 18, 2004 version of this Research Response, which omitted a few session days in the 93rd General Assembly due to a conflict between an Internet site and official journals.

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Table 1: Legislative Session Days Since 1951 (regular sessions)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Convened</i>		<i>Adjourned</i>		<i>Legislative days</i>	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>
67th	1951	January 3	1951	June 30	70	68(9)
68th	1953	January 7	1953	June 27	67	68(11)
69th	1955	January 5	1955	June 30	67	64(4)
70th	1957	January 9	1957	June 29	81	81(8)
71st	1959	January 7	1959	June 30	57	61(1)
72nd	1961	January 4	1961	June 30	73	72(7)
73rd	1963	January 9	1963 1963	June 29 (S) June 28 (H)	72	71(1)
74th	1965	January 6	1965	June 30	102	93(2)
75th	1967	January 4	1967	June 30	109	87(2)
	1967	September 11	1967	October 19	9	8
	1968	March 4	1968	March 4	1	1
	1968	July 15	1969	July 15	7	8
	1969	January 8	1969	January 8	1	1
	75TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				127	105(2)
76th	1969	January 8 (S)	1969	June 30	103	84(1)
	1969	January 9 (H)				
	1969	October 14	1969	October 23	5	4
	1970	March 31 (S)	1970	May 29	31	25(2)
	1970	April 1 (H)				
	1970	November 16	1971	January 6	2	2(1)
	76TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				141	115(4)
77th	1971	January 6	1971	June 30	85	86(15)
	1971	October 5	1971	November 13	22	27(8)

Table 1: Legislative Session Days Since 1951 (cont'd)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Convened</i>		<i>Adjourned</i>		<i>Legislative days</i>	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>
77th	1972	January 12	1972	June 30	49	49(6)
(cont'd)	1972	November 26	1973	January 9	8	8(0)
77th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS					164	170(29)
78th	1973	January 10	1973	July 2	82	90(9)
	1973	October 15	1973	December 1	21	22(3)
	1974	January 9	1974	July 12	50	50(4)
	1974	November 7	1975	January 8	9	9(1)
78th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS					162	171(17)
79th	1975	January 8	1975	July 1	86	104(14)
	1975	October 22	1975	November 21	10	10(0)
	1976	January 14	1976	July 2	61	63(11)
	1976	November 17	1977	January 12	12	11(0)
79th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS					169	188(25)
80th	1977	January 12	1977	July 2	87	92(10)
	1977	October 24	1977	November 23	12	12(1)
	1978	January 11	1978	July 1	50	58(6)
	1978	November 14	1979	January 10	8	12(1)
80th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS					157	174(18)
81st	1979	January 10	1979	July 9-10	78	84(5)
	1979	October 3	1979	November 9	11	11(2)
	1980	January 9	1980	July 2	63	63(4)
	1980	November 6	1981	January 14	8	10(1)
81st GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS					160	168(12)
82nd	1981	January 14	1981	July 1-2	73	77(3)
	1981	October 1	1981	October 29-30	7	5(1)
	1982	January 13	1982	July 1-2	56	55(4)
	1982	November 5	1983	January 12	10	10(0)
82nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS					146	147(8)

Table 1: Legislative Session Days Since 1951 (cont'd)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Convened</i>		<i>Adjourned</i>		<i>Legislative days</i>	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>
83rd	1983	January 12	1983	July 2	69	78(4)
	1983	October 5	1983	November 4	8	10(3)
	1984	January 11	1984	July 1	55	57(8)
	1984	November 14	1985	January 9	7	7(2)
	83rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				139	152(17)
84th	1985	January 9	1985	July 3-5	62	71(8)
	1985	October 2	1985	November 14	16	16(0)
	1986	January 8	1986	July 1-2	50	53(8)
	1986	November 6	1987	January 13	9	9(1)
	84th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				137	149(17)
85th	1987	January 14	1987	June 30	63	72(14)
	1987	October 8	1987	November 6	7	9(3)
	1988	January 13	1988	July 2	47	46(3)
	1988	November 12	1989	January 10	9	9(1)
	85th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				126	136(21)
86th	1989	January 11	1989	July 1	60	68(12)
	1989	October 4	1989	November 3	9	8(2)
	1990	January 10	1990	June 30	44	63(20)
	1990	November 8	1991	January 8	8	8(1)
	86th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				121	147(35)
87th	1991	January 9	1991	July 19	74	95(17)
	1991	October 9	1991	November 8	7	7(1)
	1992	January 8	1992	July 2	51	66(16)
	1992	November 5	1993	January 12	8	8(1)
	87th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				140	176(35)
88th	1993	January 13	1993	July 13	77(8)	82(13)
	1993	September 29	1993	November 14	9(1)	9(1)
	1994	January 12	1994	July 12	58(13)	67(15)
	1994	November 10	1995	January 10	8(0)	7(1)
	88th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				152(22)	165(30)

Table 1: Legislative Session Days Since 1951 (cont'd)

<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>Convened</i>		<i>Adjourned</i>		<i>Legislative days</i>	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>
89th	1995	January 11	1995	May 26	59(8)	70(9)
	1995	October 20	1995	November 16	7(0)	10(3)
	1996	January 10 (S)	1996	May 25	47(4)	58(9)
	1996	January 9 (H)				
	1996	November 7	1997	January 7	9(0)	12(4)
	89th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				122(12)	150(25)
90th	1997	January 8	1997	June 1 (S)	61(9)	74(9)
			1997	May 31 (H)		
	1997	October 16	1997	November 14	6	7(1)
	1998	January 14 (S)	1998	May 22	43(3)	50(11)
	1998	January 16 (H)				
	1998	November 5	1999	January 12	9(1)	9(2)
	90th GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				119(13)	140(23)
91st	1999	January 12	1999	May 27	54(2)	65(8)
	1999	November 4	1999	December 2	7	8(2)
	2000	January 12 (S)	2000	April 15	42(2)	52(9)
	2000	January 5 (H)				
	2000	November 9	2001	January 9	9	9(1)
	91st GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				112(4)	134(20)
92nd	2001	January 10	2001	May 31	52(1)	69(9)
	2001	November 7*	2001	November 29	7	8(2)
	2002	January 9†	2002	June 2	50	65(16)
	2002	November 7	2003	January 7	9	10(2)
	92nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				118(1)	152(29)
93rd	2003	January 8	2003	May 31	57(3)	69(9)
	2003	November 4‡	2003	November 21	10(3)	8(1)
	93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOTALS				67(6)	77(10)

* The House also held a perfunctory session on August 22, 2001.

† The House also held a perfunctory session on January 3, 2002.

‡ Both houses held perfunctory sessions on October 23, 2003. The Senate held a perfunctory session on October 29, 2003.

Table 1: Legislative Session Days Since 1951 (cont'd)

Key:

The first number shown, not in parentheses, for each house is that house's total days of regular (not special) sessions, including both substantive and perfunctory session days.

Each number in parentheses enumerates perfunctory session days; they are included in the first number.

Note: The Senate did not officially have perfunctory sessions until 1993.

Source: Compiled by Legislative Research Unit from Illinois House and Senate Journals for various years, and Illinois General Assembly Internet site.

Table 2: Special Sessions Since 1971

<i>G.A. & spec sess.</i>	<i>Convened</i>		<i>Adjourned</i>		<i>Legislative days</i>		<i>Called by</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>		
77th								
1	1972	Nov. 26	1972	Dec. 17	7	8(1)	Gov.	Property tax relief
2	1973	Jan. 2	1973	Jan. 6	5(5)	5(2)(3)	Gov.	State officers' salaries
78th								
1	1973	Oct. 15	1974	July 12	46	60(5)(1)	Gov.	Ethics law
2	1973	Oct. 22	1973	Dec. 1	17	19(3)	Legis.	Retailers' occupation tax reduction
3	1973	Oct. 22	1973	Dec. 1	20(1)	19(3)(1)	Gov.	State lottery; transportation; federal revenue-sharing funds; use of federal drug-abuse funds
4	1973	Oct. 30	1973	Dec. 1	14	14(2)	Legis.	Governor's budget bill deadline; qualifications for general school administrative certificate; consolidating nomination and election of county boards; transferring pre-audit and voucher functions to Comptroller
5	1973	Nov. 8	1973	Dec. 1	10	11(2)	Legis.	County boards of election commissioners to levy a tax; reducing transit fares for elderly and children; residence requirements for Chicago school board; fixing technical errors in P.A. 78-238; tax relief for elderly and disabled
79th								
1	1975	Oct. 22	1976	June 3	23	19	Gov.	School funding
2	1975	Nov. 5	1976	June 23	25	25	Legis.	State Board of Elections provisions
3	1975	Nov. 18	1975	Nov. 21	4	4	Gov.	Delegates for national conventions; school aid formula

Table 2: Special Sessions Since 1971 (cont'd)

G.A. & spec sess.	Convened		Adjourned		Legislative days		Called by	Subject(s)
	Year	Date	Year	Date	Senate	House		
79th (cont'd)								
4	1976	July 9	1976	July 9	1(1)	1(1)	Legis.	State agency funding
5	1976	July 9	1976	July 9	1(1)	1(1)	Gov.	Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
6	1976	Sept. 8	1976	Sept. 23	9(9)	7(2)(5)	Gov.	School funding
80th								
1	1977	Oct. 24	1978	Jan. 11	13	13(1)	Legis.	Criminal justice and corrections system; State Board of Elections
2	1977	Oct. 24	1978	Jan. 11	13	13(1)	Gov.	Unemployment insurance; consolidated elections; capital development bonds; public aid; community college grants
3	1977	Dec. 16	1977	Dec. 16	1(1)	1(1)	Legis.	State Board of Elections selection
4	1979	Jan. 5	1979	Jan. 6	1 (1)	1 (1)	Gov.	Elected and appointed officials' compensation
81st								
1	1979	Aug. 6	1979	Aug. 6	1(1)	1(1)	Gov.	Personal property tax replacement
2	1979	Sept. 5	1979	Sept. 6	2(2)	2(2)	Gov.	State highways; Public Employee Pension Laws Commission Appropriation
3	1979	Oct. 17	1979	Nov. 8	7	6(1)	Gov.	Sales tax relief for food and drugs
4	1980	Jan. 12	1980	Jan. 23	2	3	Gov.	Real estate taxes
82nd	No special sessions							

Table 2: Special Sessions Since 1971 (cont'd)

G.A. & spec sess.	Convened		Adjourned		Legislative days		Called by	Subject(s)
	Year	Date	Year	Date	Senate	House		
83rd	No special sessions							
84th								
1	1985	July 8	1985	July 8	1(1)	1(1)	Gov.	Build Illinois appropriations
2	1985	Oct. 2	1985	Nov. 14	11	16	Gov.	Metropolitan Fair and Exposition Authority reorganization; McCormick Place expansion
3	1986	Nov. 18	1987	Jan. 13	8	8	Gov.	Insurance and tort reform
85th								
1	1987	July 1	1987	July 1	1(1)	1(1)	Gov.	Mental Health and Supreme Court appropriations
86th	No special sessions							
87th								
1	1991	Feb. 13	1991 1991	July 19(S) July 18(H)	72 86(11)		Gov.	Property tax relief
2	1992	Nov. 17	1992	Dec. 2	5 (1)	5	Legis.	Land-based casinos in Chicago
88th								
1	1993	Sept. 2	1993	Nov. 14	29(15)(6)	29(16)(5)	Gov.	Chicago school crisis

Table 2: Special Sessions Since 1971 (cont'd)

<i>G.A. & spec sess.</i>	<i>Convened</i>		<i>Adjourned</i>		<i>Legislative days</i>		<i>Called by</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>		
88th (cont'd)								
2	1994	July 1	1994	July 12	10(6)(2)	10(3)(4)	Gov.	Budgets of state departments, authorities, and public agencies; Medicaid reform; refund of outstanding state bonds
3	1994	July 1	1994	July 2	2(2)	2(2)	Gov.	“Baby Richard” law
89th No special sessions								
90th								
1	1997	Dec. 2	1997	Dec. 2	1(1)	1(1)	Gov.	School funding reform
91st								
1	1999	Dec. 13	2000	Apr. 11	57(48)(8)	59(31)(9)	Gov.	Safe Neighborhoods Law
2	1999	Dec. 16	2000	Apr. 11	54(48)(5)	56(31)(5)	Gov.	Safe Neighborhoods Law
3	1999	Dec. 29	1999	Dec. 29	1(1)	0	Gov.	Safe Neighborhoods Law
4	2000	June 28	2000	June 29	2(2)	2(2)	Gov.	Motor fuel tax repeal
92nd								
1	2002	June 10	2002	June 11	2	2	Gov.	Budget reductions and vetoes by Governor to S.B. 2393 (P.A. 92-538), and Governor’s veto of H.B. 3714 prohibiting Department of Corrections from contracting with private vendors for prison food or commissary services.

Note: Includes perfunctory sessions (in parentheses) for which members did not receive per diems. The Senate did not officially have perfunctory sessions until 1993. Numbers in parentheses reflect perfunctory days; bold numbers in parentheses reflect non-concurrent, non-perfunctory special session days.

Source: Compiled by Legislative Research Unit from Illinois House and Senate Journals for various years.